

CLAIMS

1. A plastic masking film for protecting a protected surface from paint directed at the protected surface, the film being formed in a sheet large enough to cover at least a significant portion of the protected surface, the film comprising at least two co-extruded layers, an outer layer and an inner layer, the outer layer having a surface energy of at least about 50 dynes/cm, so as to ensure the adherence of paint to the film and restrain the paint from dripping or flaking, the inner layer comprising a resin with cling properties that cause the film to adhere to the protected surface without the use of an adhesive.

2. A film according to claim 1 in which the outer layer comprises a corona-treated thermoplastic material that retains its surface energy at a minimum of 35 dynes/cm. until use.

3. A film according to claim 2 in which the thermoplastic material of the outer layer comprises one or a combination of members selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl acetate, ethylene vinyl alcohol, and high density polyethylene.

4. A film according to claim 1 in which the inner layer comprises high density polyethylene.

5. A film according to claim 1 and further comprising a central core layer formed of one or a combination of polyolefins compatible with the inner and outer layers.

6. A film according to claim 2 in which a mineral or other particulate filler is incorporated in the outer layer to improve the adhesion of paint or coatings to the plastic surface.

7. A film according to claim 1 in which at least one of the layers is colored or marked to visually distinguish between the inner and outer layers.

8. A film according to claim 5 wherein the core layer comprises one or a combination of members selected from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and linear low density polyethylene.

9. A plastic masking film comprising at least three co-extruded thermoplastic layers, an inner layer adapted to contact a product being painted, an outer layer on an opposite exterior surface of the film, and a central core layer between the inner and outer layers, the inner layer comprising high density polyethylene in a thickness of about 0.2 to 1.0 mils (about 5 to 25 microns), the central core layer comprising one or a combination of members formed from the group consisting of low density polyethylene and linear low density polyethylene, the thickness of the inner layer being about 0.2 to 2.0 mils (about 5 to 50 microns), the outer layer comprising a corona-treated material selected from the group consisting of one or a combination of members selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl acetate, ethylene vinyl alcohol, and high density polyethylene the outer layer being about 0.2 to 0.3 (about 5 to 8 microns) mils thick.

10. A plastic masking cover for covering a protected surface of a vehicle or other protected surface while other parts of the surface are painted, the plastic masking

cover comprising a sheet of plastic film at least about eighteen inches wide, the film having at least two layers and being formed by co-extrusion, the film having an inner layer that contacts the protected surface and an outer layer that faces away from the protected surface and receives paint directed toward the protected surface, the inner layer comprising a material having no adhesive applied thereto but instead having sufficient inherent cling characteristics to cause the film to cling to and remain in a covering position on the protected surface without the use of an adhesive, the cling characteristics of the inner layer being low enough that inner surfaces of the material that contact each other do not cling to each other so aggressively that they can not be separated, the inner layer comprising a polyethylene having a density greater than low density polyethylene, the film having an outer layer comprising one or a combination of members selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl acetate, ethylene vinyl alcohol, and high density polyethylene, the outer layer further having an outer surface that is corona treated to an initial level of at least 50 dynes/cm, the outer layer having a sufficient surface energy to induce adhesion of paint sprayed on the material so as to impede paint dripping and paint flaking from the outer surface.

11. A plastic masking cover according to claim 10 wherein the inner layer comprises high density polyethylene.

12. A plastic masking cover according to claim 10 wherein the outer layer comprises high density polyethylene.

13. A plastic masking cover according to claim 12 wherein the outer layer includes ethylene vinyl acetate.

14. A plastic masking cover according to claim 10 and further including a middle layer comprising a polyolefin material.

15. A plastic masking cover according to claim 14 wherein the middle layer comprises one or a combination of low density polyethylene and linear low density polyethylene.

16. A plastic masking cover according to claim 14 wherein the middle layer comprises post-consumer recycled material.

17. A plastic masking cover according to claim 10 wherein the film is packaged in elongated rolls that are dismissible from roll dispensers.

18. A plastic masking cover according to claim 10 wherein the film is dispensable from the roll by crosswise tearing or of a portion from the roll, the film being formed so as to have enhanced tensile strength in a longitudinal direction, but having relatively weak cross-directional tear characteristics that facilitate tearing covers from the roll.